



***Division of Public Health Services***  
***Office of the Assistant Director***  
***Public Information Office***  
150 North 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007-2670

JANET NAPOLITANO, GOVERNOR  
SUSAN GERARD, DIRECTOR

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Contact: Mary Ehlert, ADHS Public Information Officer: (602) 364-1201; (602) 721-0532

# ***State Program Offers Free Health Screening to Women***

Clifton, AZ (June 27, 2206) --- The Arizona Department of Health Services Well Woman HealthCheck Program helps save lives through early cancer detection. Women who are 40 years or older, uninsured or under insured, and who do not exceed certain income guidelines, can obtain free clinical breast exams, mammograms, pelvic exams and pap tests through the program.

The program is financed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state funding that enables the Arizona Department of Health Services to provide the free cancer screenings.

In 2005, 5,589 women received this free service from the program. It is anticipated that in 2006, up to 7,000 women will be screened in Arizona.

Program coordinators in individual counties report that they have funding available for qualified women.

“Don’t assume that you do not qualify,” said Sabrina Moreno from the Greenlee County Health Department. Moreno says the department receives requests for the free screening every day.

She reports that this year, no cancers have been found in the 120 women who have been screened. “Some of the women were referred by their health care providers because they had a breast mass or suspicious lump, but, thankfully, no cancers were found after screenings and biopsies,” she said.

Moreno urged women to call the county health department. She said eligibility can be determined over the phone, and if the woman qualifies, an appointment for the cancer screenings can be made. “We are here to help, and we can do this right away,” she said.

The services are provided at selected health care centers, private physicians offices and hospitals statewide.

To find out if you qualify, call the statewide toll-free phone number at 1-888-257-8502 or call your local program at 928-865-2601.

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